

# Free Press.

SAN MARCOS, TEXAS.

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 1885.

## HOME NEWS.

### ARRIVAL OF PASSENGER TRAINS.

TRAIN FROM SAN MARCOS AS FOLLOWS:

MAIL. MAIL.

Going South: 5:10 P. M. and 8:30 P. M.

Going North: 8:45 A. M. and 9:50 P. M.

(Persons not subscribers who may at any time receive copies of the Free Press, will please understand that they are sent simply as samples, in the hope that the parties addressed may like it well enough to favor us with their subscription.)

Two Copies for \$3.50.

Inasmuch as many persons desire to send copies abroad, and by way of encouragement so to do, we offer two copies of the Free Press at \$3.50—cash in advance.

Nice clean newspapers for wrapping paper for sale at the Free Press office for only 25 cents a hundred.

Free delivery in city. McALLISTER.

Just arrived carload of Early Rose seed potatoes. M. HINZIE.

A nice lot of sweet potatoes at M. HINZIE'S.

Finest and cheapest tobacco, pipes and cigars. TAYLOR & THOMAS.

Having received two cars of flour bought before the rise, I am offering the same at very low prices. Wm. GIESSEN, Agt.

Dried peeled peaches, evaporated apples, prunes, currants, grates, hominy, &c., always on hand at JAS. TAYLOR & BRO.

Car load flour to arrive this week, Imperial and Rose of Kansas at JAS. TAYLOR & BRO.

Remember that we have moved our stock of groceries to the old rock building formerly occupied by C. C. Weems. JAS. TAYLOR & BRO.

Car load of seed and eating potatoes, onions, beans, etc., at Wm. GIESSEN, Agt.

Car flour to arrive next week. TAYLOR & THOMAS.

Bring your butter to us, we are out. TAYLOR & THOMAS.

Send your orders to James Taylor & Bro. for groceries. Their entire stock is fresh.

Fresh Oat Meal and the best. TAYLOR & THOMAS.

Seed and eating potatoes, onions, cranberries, etc., at M. HINZIE'S.

Sugar cane and Millet seed at Wm. GIESSEN, Agt.

Early Rose potatoes for sale. H. HARDY & CO.

Eagle steam flour at Johnson & Johnson's.

Highest price paid for corn and oats, at M. HINZIE'S.

Come down with the cash and down comes the price of groceries at McAllister's.

Single copies of the Free Press for sale at the office, also at the book stores of Russell & Ellison, five cents a copy.

Single copies of the Daily St. Louis Republic and Globe-Democrat, New York Sun, Chicago News, etc., may be had at this office.

Five hundred cords wood for sale at Fred C. Brown's wood yard. Office at Livery Stable. Call and leave your orders for winter wood. Wm. GIESSEN, Agt.

For sale, a copy of the American Agriculturist, for the current year. Will be sent from the office of publication to any address. Inquire at this office.

The old established grocery house of M. Hinzies continues to commend itself to a discerning public. It possesses solid merits and is run by solid men. Like good wine it improves with age.

Wanted any quantity of country butter, eggs, chickens, etc., in exchange for groceries. M. HINZIE.

Carload of the lately celebrated Moline Wagons received and offered for sale at reasonable prices and terms. Wm. GIESSEN, Agt.

Notice.

James Taylor & Bro. have moved their stock of groceries to the old rock building formerly occupied by C. C. Weems.

Boarding.

To persons wishing boarding, whether in town or country, we can commend the house of Mrs. Souter, near the Freight Depot. Her long and successful experience in the business is the best guaranty of satisfaction to her patrons.

Largest, Best and Cheapest.

Thus in brief may be characterized the new stock of goods just received and receiving by J. V. Hutchins, at his old stand. In the line of domestic and prills he has the largest stock ever brought to this place. Fine bleached domestic at ten cents, prints 20 yards for \$1, Lyons the same. A bill has been introduced in the Minnesota House providing that males and females shall not be allowed to use or occupy the floor of any roller-skating rink at the same time. In another place, the name of which we have not preserved, the board of education gave notice that the attendance of any public school teacher at the skating rink would be considered equivalent to resignation.—New York Observer.

LEGAL CARD.

W. D. Wood and Owen Ford have associated themselves together for the practice of law in civil matters in Hays county, Texas. Office in Wood's new building, up stairs, San Marcos.

BABBIT METAL way below New York cost at this office.

Roller-skating rinks have degenerated into public saloons in many quarters. In our secular exchanges we find many items that show this. In Bordentown the common council have passed an ordinance restricting the hours of attendance for school-children and the sale of intoxicating liquors. A bill has been introduced in the Minnesota House providing that males and females shall not be allowed to use or occupy the floor of any roller-skating rink at the same time. In another place, the name of which we have not preserved, the board of education gave notice that the attendance of any public school teacher at the skating rink would be considered equivalent to resignation.—New York Observer.

## The Public Free School Question.

We invite general attention to the call published elsewhere in our columns, issued by Mayor Cook, upon the petition of a large number of our citizens, for an election to determine whether or not the corporate authorities, (or trustees elected for that purpose, as the law may be found to provide,) shall acquire exclusive control of all the public free schools within our corporate limits. It was contemplated by the petitioners that the election would be called the same day of the regular election for corporation officers, Tuesday April 7th. This it was thought would insure a full vote, something which ought to be desirable to all concerned, besides saving the trouble and expense of another election. But for some reason the Mayor declined to call the school election for that day, but as will be seen has fixed on Monday the 30th inst., as the day for taking said vote.

The law authorizing this action was passed at the regular session of the legislature held in the winter and spring of 1879. The portion necessary to our present purpose we copy below:

An act to further regulate and render more efficient the maintenance and management of the public free schools and institutions of learning in cities and towns in this state.

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas, That any town in this state may acquire the exclusive control of the public free schools within its limits.

Sec. 2. The mayor of said city or town shall, upon the written application of not less than fifty of the qualified electors of such city or town, order within twenty days of such application, an election by the qualified electors of such city or town, to be conducted as other municipal elections, to decide by a majority of the votes cast by the qualified electors of such city or town at such election, whether such city or town shall acquire the exclusive control of any or all of the public free schools and institutions of learning within its limits, and whether the same shall be under the control of the board of trustees as hereinafter mentioned, or of the council or board of aldermen of such city or town.

The rest of the act is devoted to providing for the election of trustees, if asked for, declaring their duties, etc. We are told there is another act which gives the town council authority to appoint trustees, but this, if so, is rather immaterial.

The sole object now contemplated is to take the sense of the people, for whose benefit they were intended, as to whether or not the town shall acquire exclusive control of the public free schools, no reference to any other present existing institutions of learning was made or intended to be made in the petition. Nothing whatever is now contemplated but to take control of the schools. Their further management will be a matter of future action exclusively, and only what may be found to be warranted by their best interests and those of the community. All the talk on the part of the opponents of the change about taxation, is irrelevant to the issue and only intended to create prejudice as to defeat the movement.

We have neither time nor space to go at length into a discussion of this question, nor, in fact, do we think it necessary. We shall therefore only present briefly some of the leading reasons for the proposed change, which we think will be found conclusive with fair minded people.

The present plan of apportioning the free school pupils and funds among other schools—the main share going to Corral Institute—was adopted, as everybody knows, as a mere temporary expedient. It was never intended to establish a precedent in thus superseding the free school proper and diverting its funds to a denominational school. If exposable then, there is no longer any excuse for it. The free schools can no longer be properly taught on the present plan.

Again, San Marcos is not what it was, twenty, or even ten years ago. Its population has largely increased, and bids fair in a few years to be double what it is at present. It is obvious, therefore, the schools which now have the contract for teaching our free school pupils, and which are already overcrowded, cannot possibly continue to do so without a sacrifice of the free school system and its best interests. If we were to attempt to go on the present plan 5 or 10 years longer we should still have no free school system in harmony with the system of the State generally, whereas if we set it up on its own proper basis now, by that time we shall have a fine system of graded schools in edifice of their own, taught by the best teachers of the country and open alike to the children of all classes and denominations of our people. And from the time we start these schools on an independent basis, they will attract good people to settle here among us as no other one thing could do. We regard the steady future growth of San Marcos as really involved in this change.

Lastly and if possible yet more conclusively, we are credibly informed that two of the trustees of the Institute estimate that on the present plan the tuition of the free school pupils costs about twice as much as it would if separately and independently conducted. It follows of course that said pupils could receive school instruction twice as long on the latter plan as on the former, and we will add that in the nature of things the teaching could not but be much better and more satisfactory. These gentlemen ought to know whereof they speak, and if correct, their estimate ought to settle the question.

We sometimes hear it said that by the proposed change some would lose their share of the school fund, because they prefer to send elsewhere. Such however, would lose only by their own option—the free schools being open to them. But on the other hand there may be, and in fact we know are others who feel constrained to keep their children away from the schools as at present conducted on account of their crowded and unsatisfactory condition, and they too lose their share of the fund. So there are two sides to that question.

It is argued by some that the proposed change may prove disastrous to Corral Institute, and that its advocates are unfriendly to it. We do not believe the first part of this statement, and we repeat the latter, at least so far as we are concerned. The Institute is under the patronage of the Methodist church, so strong in numbers, wealth and influence. The church, aided by its volunteer outside patrons, is amply able to sustain its denominational schools, and the fault will be its own exclusively, if they are not adequately sustained. We think the Institute would take a higher rank if not restricted so much to primary teaching. Our free school pupils might then naturally

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Col. J. F. Ellison is preparing to remove to Presidio county.

Maj. Hinzie is registered at the Hotel.

We had a pleasant call from Mr. Waldron, representing the San Antonio Express, last week.

Young Mr. Chastain, of Iowa, who was here some time on a visit, has returned to stay.

W. S. B. Owens, who resided on the Blanco, died on Monday evening, after a lingering illness.

Dr. Cook is at home. We learn he has left his location in Fayette county for an indefinite time.

Mr. McClellan, late of Paris, Texas, is prospecting for the purchase of business and dwelling places in our town.

Mr. Noyes, said to have once been a large circus proprietor, is running a very small branch of the show business at this place.

Mrs. Day left on Monday evening for a visit to her old home, (Florida), via New Orleans. We wish the good lady a pleasant sojourn abroad and a safe return home.

We learn that W. Goodrich Jones will return here soon, and it is thought will inaugurate some new enterprise at the San Marcos water power, in which he retains an interest.

We met this week one of our subscribers at Wimberley, who said only one copy of last week's Free Press reached that office. We cannot understand this, for we know we mailed the package as usual.

Quite a number of our citizens have gone to the Exposition, among them Mr. and Mrs. Glover and a part of their family, Mr. and Mrs. McAllister, Miss Annie Haynes, etc.

Bacon Lyell has gone west to marry Miss Willie Thompson. It is but fitting that the "heroine of San Marcos" should make her home here, which we learn is to be the fact.

The new street through Dr. Woods's addition is becoming quite attractive. Mr. Borden is having a new cottage built. Mrs. Poole is occupying her handsome new house, and Mr. Fate will soon have one for himself under way.

We met our friend Clift last week in town. He appeared to have just come in on the Blanco road, for he asked us to say to whom it might concern that he found it a "bad row for stumps," and to suggest their removal by those interested.

Rival daily papers are contending briskly for the supremacy in our town, and the rival local reporters are going for all the influential morsels of village gossip, a la McAllister. A man can scarcely go out in anywhere without having the important fact published at San Antonio or Austin.

We lately complimented the Greenville Banner as a fine specimen of a Texas country paper. Mr. Harris our freight dealer, has just handed us a copy of the Greenville Herald, conducted by a brother of his, which is of the same size and style of the Banner. We learn there is still another paper there. That must be a first class region for supporting newspapers.

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Corn planting in February is up nicely, demonstrating that the entire crop ought then to have been put in the ground.

CURE FOR CHICKEN CHOLERA.—A new cure for chicken cholera is that manufactured by G. Turquand & Co., San Antonio. It is for sale at White's Saddle and Harness Shop in this place. Try it.

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Important.

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